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27 November 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Construction of a New CIA Building.

1989

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1. On 26 November 1954 Mr. Dulles and I met with Mr. Arthur S. Fleming, Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, to discuss CIA's need for a new building. Mr. Dulles reviewed the situation briefly and advised Mr. Fleming that we were seriously considering the Langley property and had also given some thought to the Arlington Hall property. He pointed out that things were progressing at such a rate that we deemed it important to get an early decision as to whether we could be excepted from the current dispersal standards.

2. Mr. Fleming was sympathetic to CIA's need but reiterated that he had planned to bring to the attention of the Cabinet the whole dispersal problem. This is now scheduled for 10 December 1954 and Mr. Fleming undertook to insure that Mr. Dulles was invited to this meeting.

3. In the course of the discussion Mr. Fleming suggested the possibility of constructing a building at the Langley site for a nucleus of CIA and locating the remainder of the Agency further out in Virginia, thirty-five to forty miles; this, in view of the fact that current ODM thinking is that the dispersal limit should be thirty-five miles in lieu of ten as of present.

4. No definite conclusion was reached. Mr. Dulles indicated that he would welcome the opportunity to attend the Cabinet meeting on the 10th of December and to discuss our particular situation with Mr. Fleming and the President as soon thereafter as possible.

5. The principal point of Mr. Dulles' argument with Mr. Fleming was that CIA should be located so as to render maximum service with maximum efficiency prior to the outbreak of hostilities and that this service should not be sacrificed in order to make the Agency safe after hostilities broke out. He also said that he thought we were in a much better position than the normal Government Agency inasmuch as we had a large number of people overseas who could be brought home immediately to reconstitute the Agency if the Washington headquarters should be wiped out entirely.

6. While we were returning to CIA headquarters Mr. Dulles said that he wanted me to give further consideration to the possibility of bringing people home to reconstitute the Agency and that definite plans should be formulated along this line. He also thought that we should give further consideration to the possibility of dispersing some segments of the Agency more distant from Washington and providing helicopter service between the main headquarters and the outlying components if necessary.

DD/A:LKW:laq

cc: [redacted] EPO

thru par. 4 - C/O

DD/A Chrono - Ref Sht

DD/A subject: Ref Sht - New Building File

DD/A subject: U.P.O. file - LAQ: New Bldg. File - LAQ

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Deputy Director  
(Administration)